

George Allen of USIA To Take Industrial Post

George V. Allen, director of the United States Information Agency, today became the first ranking administration official to resign in the wake of the Democratic election victory.

Mr. Allen, whose agency was caught in a cross-fire over the campaign issue of releasing confidential reports on American prestige abroad, will leave his post December 1 to take over as president of the Tobacco Institute, Inc.

The announcement was made by White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty in Augusta, where President Eisenhower is vacationing. Abbott Washburn, deputy director of USIA, is expected to serve as director for the final weeks of the Eisenhower administration.

In accepting his resignation, Mr. Eisenhower said: "I want to assure you of my appreciation of the effort you have devoted to bringing the vital work of the agency to the highest possible effectiveness."

Mr. Allen, a veteran of the Foreign Service before his appointment by Mr. Eisenhower as head of the USIA in 1957, had served both the Roosevelt and Truman administrations in important diplomatic posts.

The USIA surveys which showed that United States prestige had declined in Europe became a heated issue in the closing days of the presidential campaign. Both the overseas information agency and the White House refused to make them public, though their contents were widely leaked to the press.

Senator Kennedy made the USIA a principal target of his campaign, charging that the administration had often trailed the Russians in the propaganda field and had failed to tell the American story in Cuba and Latin America.

In his new post Mr. Allen will succeed former Representative James P. Richards, Democrat of South Carolina, one-time chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"While it was a difficult decision to leave the Government, which I have served for 30 years," Mr. Allen said in a statement, "the prospect of representing America's oldest

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GEORGE V. ALLEN

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industry, and one of its largest, is most interesting and challenging."

Mr. Allen, who holds the rank of career ambassador, entered the Foreign Service in 1930. His first ambassadorial post was to Iran in 1946, and he subsequently served as Ambassador to India and Nepal, Yugoslavia and Greece.

Under President Truman, he was Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs and directed the Office of International Information, predecessor of the USIA. He became chief of the USIA on October 16, 1957.

Mr. Allen also served as chairman of the United States delegation to the UNESCO conferences in Beirut and Paris in 1948 and 1949, participated in the major international conferences at Moscow, Cairo and Potsdam, and the United Nations Conference at San Francisco in 1945.

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